(b) if so, what were the main points of reference made to this Task Force; and

(c) if so, to what extent the Task Force has been able to boost the investments and reforms in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) With the objective of catalyzing fresh investment in the power sector and ensuring the implementation of the reforms and the Electricity Act, 2003, a Task Force on "Power Sector Investments and Reforms" has been constituted on 19th August, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh, Member (Energy), Planning Commission. The terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows:

(i) To analyze the existing investment climate in the power sector and suggest measures for promoting and facilitating private investments, both domestic and foreign, in all segments of the power industry;

(ii) To suggest enabling fiscal regime for securing such investments;

(iii) To consider the ways for augmenting resources for meeting the investment needs of the sector with the objective of providing "Power for All" by 2012;

(iv) To suggest measures for the speedy implementation of APDRP PMGY, Minimum Needs Programme (MNP), Accelerated RE Programme and AG and SP;

(v) To suggest roadmaps for effective functioning of State Electricity Utilities, including reduction in the cost of delivered power, in the context of Electricity Act, 2003;

(vi) To recommend Electricity Tariff Policy; and

(vii) To evolve and recommend National Electricity Policy.

The Task Force has met 13 times and still is in the process of deliberation on various issues.

Crimes against women and children

*38. SHRIMAT IAMBIKA SONI:

DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an alarming rise in crimes against children in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the alarming rise of crimes against women, children and foreign tourists in the country; and

(c) whether Centre has in consultation with State Governments formulated any programmes of action in curbing these crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND) : (a) No, Sir. As per statistics of crime against children compiled by National Crime Records Bureau, the incidents of crime against children in the country in 2000 were 5023 and 4912 in 2001.

(b) and (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects are per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India as such, detection, registration, investigation and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against the women and children and to take following measures:

(a) Sensitization of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting women.

(b) Enforcement of existing legislation relating to dowry violence.

(c) Setting up of women police cells in Police stations and exclusive women Police Stations.

(d) Setting up of Crisis Intervention Centres.

(e) Investigation of rape cases either by women investigating officers or women police officers associated with the Investigating Officers of such cases.

(f) Constitution of Special Session Courts with female Judges.

(g) Institutional support to the victims of violence.

(h) Establishment of linguistically and culturally accessible services for migrant women in educational institutions and working places

(i) Counseling victims of rapes.

(j) Special measures to eliminate trafficking in women.

(k) Appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers.

(l) Wider recruitment of women Police officers.

(m) Training to police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women and children.

(n) Co-ordination with NGOs in rehabilitation of women crime victims.

As a result of the overall efforts of the Central Government, most of the States and the Union Territories have set up special cells to deal with crime against women. Many States have set up police stations managed exclusively by women police personnel to deal with crime related to women and to inculcate a sense of confidence and security in women to approach police stations without fear or apprehension.

Puyankutty Hydroelectric power project of Kerala

*39. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal regarding Hydroelectric Power Project *viz.* Puyankutty project, submitted by the competent authority of Kerala State is under consideration;

(b)if so, the details regarding the year of submission and status of such project as on date;

(c) whether the Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) has submitted the Environmental impact assessment report on the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) The Puyankutty Hydro-electric Project (2X120 MW) was cleared by the Central Electricty Authority in January, 1984 for an estimated

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.